

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

THE

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Evolution of "Miss Sydney at Work".

Under Present Systems of Machine Process.

By M. M.

An entertaining if superficial writer in the "Sun," 272-18, has presented us with a charming pen picture of Miss Sydney at work, and shirtmaking is the fascinating employment, which creates for those so employed a veritable paradise in industry compared with shirtmakers, of whom Tom Hood wrote in his inspiring industrial and poignantly commiserating poem "The Song of the Shirt."

Of course, as the writer points out, the conditions under which the poorer classes labored were so appalling and the "Song of the Shirt" was a true picture of things as they were in those days. But the conditions in Australia are wholly different.

"Unions are for a great measure responsible for vast improvements that have taken place in the past seven or eight years.

Then follows a description of various sections of the work, the output, the machinery and, incidentally, the use of scraps.

"These are collected and sent to England, Scotland and America to be remade into shoddy.

"The material is again exported and bought by bargain hunters who wonder why their bargains don't wear.

Before going further, it will be interesting to know who are the bargain hunters who wonder why their bargains don't wear.

They certainly are not the wives, sisters and daughters of the manufacturing class nor are they those whose social status commands subservience and whose means entitle them to the best goods from the best firms. From that per medium of circulars solicit patronage in the blandest and most obsequious phraseology that servility, psychology and commercial knowledge can design.

The bargain hunters come from the class who produce all materials from the raw product in all its stages to the highly finished article and then in turn produce from scraps, shoddy for clothing for their own class. The class who produce all who make all. Think of it. Shoddy so highly finished in the machine process that those only who know the manufacturing secrets can detect it from high grade material. Therefore, the sneer levelled at the bargain hunters apart from their necessities, is wholly unjustifiable.

In one of the principal firms in South Australia two experts examining samples of towels were exercised concerning quality, pattern weight and finish of goods being similar. The final test of smell disclosed the value of the respective bundles. Evidently a chemical is used for shoddy, which experts can detect by the odour.

This was a personal experience, which with other knowledge, has been confirmed by the information re shoddy bargain hunters in the article referred to. Then follows some useful information as to time worked and time allowances, etc.

The weekly time worked by shirtmakers is 46 hours and 40 minutes, all time worked in excess of this is counted overtime.

Ten minutes cessation is allowed, such time to be counted work. "In this way those who have travelled long distances are enabled to have their morning snack and this ten minutes' 'tea oh' is found to benefit the workers to such an extent

The Paris Commune.

"TO THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNE."

LIBERTY! Goddess to whom the enslaved raised their faces in worship alway,
To Thee in thy splendour thy fate-stricken sons kneel in lowliest homage this day;
For Thou of all deities ever conceived in the subtlest mind of the race,
Art mightiest far, for Imposture thy name hath endeavoured in vain to efface.

The saintliest psalms of the prophets of old were the paens thy echoes inspired,
When the sound of thy trump shook the earth like a bolt by the thunder of Jupiter fired.

In majesty awful it swings to the moan of the world's multitudinous wrong,
And winged to the chorus each poet hath sent his ineffable arrow of song.

Not one spot on the face of the woe-beaten earth but the shades of thy pinions are;
From the golden-hued, sun-smitten wilderness wild, to the white-mantled Arctic afar.

And the breath of thy glory is wafted bywinds through the whispering leaves of the trees,
From the mountainous heights of the labouring lands to the depths of the deepest seas.

In '71 the foul hell hounds of greed 'neath the roar of thy thunderings quailed,
And with impotent lust would have strangled thy might, for Profit their god was assailed;

When pitiless massacre flew from the leash by murder's own myrmidon driven,
Till the fair earth was drenched by the blood of the just who for thee and thy coming

This Parisian hell was the feast on to which fell Ferocity's ravenous gangs,
When the panthers who prey on the toilers embedded in Freedom their venomous fangs.

And Thou, when they deemed that thy hovering ghost from the scenes of their carnage had fled,
Into music of infinite passion translated the shrieks of the dying and dead.

Triumphant, exultant, the blood-guilty wretches, Thou did not intend to remain;
On the hate-cinctured brows of fell Gallifant's fiends Thou imprinted the impress of Cain,

On each visage polluted by hideous lust that symbol thy ghost-finger scrawled;
And the fair breath of Glory, the spirit of Peace, shrank aloof from their presence appalled.

And the canker of Fear hath eat deep in their souls, from the deserts of memory thrown

The sighs of the murdered have smote on their ears and the phantoms have leered from the stone:

They have learned that the vengeance of greed is as dust, and each doom-haunted hour shall tell,

That Thine is a vengeance more merciless still than is writ in the gospel of Hell.

For from peaks where the eagle thy symbol hath soared, to the wide spreading pampas aflame,

There hath swept with tumultuous fervour the zeal conjured forth at the sound of thy name.

Its immaculate presence o'ershadows with gloom the ephemeral thrones of the great,

And stirs the fond hearts of the heroes who rot in the desolate dungeons of hate.

To Thee and Thy sister-god, Justice, afflicted with eyes that are blinded with pain,
Do we with an ardour transcendent this day, hail the radiant dawn of thy reign.
Erect, with our faces illumined by the red flush of hope, we encircle thy throne,
And kneel, as harbingers of Freedom should kneel, at the foot of no shrine but thine own.

John S. Clarke in "Edinburgh Socialist."

that they do not lose in the output in the week's tally." This shows conclusively that 'tea oh' is an aid to industrial efficiency, but in the end is unusual to the workers' best interests.

Tea is stimulating, but not nourishing, therefore there are no lasting beneficial results from its use. The jaded girls "who travel long distances to work" have to rise early and eat a hasty breakfast, and even presuming the meal is plentiful and nourishing, they begin the day badly, and this is saying the least that can be said of a system of living that tends to physical deterioration from every aspect viewed.

When dealing with rates of wages the writer states the minimum for girls under twenty-one is 10/ per week, with a yearly increase until at the fourth year, 26/8 is earned per week. Girls who apprentice after the twenty-first year get 15/ till the 3rd year, when they receive—. But, however, many factories it simply means they have to go." As the young girls, although they turn out less expensive work, are cheaper. Under the circumstances can any one with reflective faculties look upon "tea oh" as an act of philanthropy or even decency?

And now we arrive at a paragraph of

deeper significance:—"In some factories the girls complain of being sweated, but in the better class of houses this is not the case for the simple reason that in the long run it doesn't pay." But if the factory owner be a small man, and if he doesn't drive his hands at top pressure he must close down and manage another man's business." The writer has stated a fundamental truth, which Marx has accounted for, as follows:—"The increase of productive capital by forcing the industrial capitalists to work with constantly growing means (of production) ruins the petty manufacturers and hurls them into the ranks of the proletariat." So we find, per reason of the above, the quondam "factory owner managing another man's business."

For our edification it is pointed out that white work, including underclothing and silk blouses attracts a more refined class of workers than shirtmaking and ready to wear men's clothing."

With their "dainty white hands" blouses to the extent of 10,000 doz. (ten thousand dozen) are turned out weekly. They delight in the work with dainty lace and insertion," and finally the writer states that the cry of the average working-girl is: "Why bother to make blouses

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

IPSWICH BRANCH.

This branch has been in existence barely five months, and yet for that short period has made sufficient progress which any branch may be proud. Starting with six members, and in about three months have a membership of 21. We have had a few outdoor meetings, but have been severely handicapped in different ways. Now we have acquired a hall of our own, which occupies a position right in the heart of the city, and is spacious enough to hold a decent sized audience. Incidentally, quite a sum of money will be needed to furnish the hall, but this is being met by subscription tickets. We are forming the nucleus of a branch library, and in a short time may see realised a Socialist Sunday School.

After the turmoil of the State elections has subsided, after the campaign of political mendacity and sham fighting is over, and the Henry Dubs have lapsed back to a comatose state of somnambulism, occasioned, probably, by the MAGNIFICENT victory of the Hard Labor Party, we must start in real earnest with outdoor propaganda, get a real "fair dinkum" go on. Special mention must be made of "Marcia's" article on shirking of motherhood. Dr. Duhig, by his attitude, raised quite a storm of indignant protest from local rebels through the correspondence columns of the "Daily Standard."

P. STALKER, Sec.

at home when one can get them so much cheaper ready made?"

Girls naturally delight in pretty things, youth and beauty are synonymous."

The woman who, by reason of dainty work, has kept her hands dainty, will have cultivated a taste for more than dainty hands. But at thirty shillings per week, "with long distances to travel," and incidentally pay fares, "snacks" between meals, general living and clothing to be paid for, unless she can supplement her income, her chances to live decently without indulging tastes for dainties are small. And she will find it hard indeed to accommodate herself to shoddy made from scraps that lie under her feet at work.

But what of the girls who must live on ten shillings per week or fifteen if she has reached her twenty-first year of early womanhood? Does she cry "Why bother to make blouses at home because they are cheaper to buy ready made?" There doesn't seem to be any questions of living in either case. There certainly must be some who are not fortunate enough to have parents who can supplement the wage to enable her to hunt for bargains that don't wear, or revel in the luxury of ready made blouses.

Such a cry would seem to be the gush of happy hearted girls, and it looks fine on paper, but there in uneasiness behind it. Those who think may find a present gain in ready made blouses, but they also glimpse the coming tragedy. They know the liberation of large quantities of goods from factories, means the enslavement of the young people of Australia, and are fully aware that the cry of the average working girl emanates from the blast of the furnace, and is caught up in the whirl of the machinery; which eventually captures every grade of worker, and grinds humanity till they become too apathetic to struggle against it and there is nothing left to cry for.

To-day woman's most important work, is to organise girls, to bring them into line with other workers.

The outlook is saddening, but not yet altogether hopeless. Organisation alone can alter conditions, and finally triumph over the machine.

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WHEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

Every subscriber will be notified by circular
when his subscription runs out. The number
of the last issue to be posted will be indicated.The W.I.U. Attitude To-
wards Beeby's Bill.

"There could be no industrial peace, there could be no permanent progress, unless we could rapidly create a position of affairs in which wages were forthcoming in sufficiency and with an unflinching regularity. An adequate and regular income was the first essential of life. There would always be resentful workers, there would always be the seed of disorder and revolution in any State where the breadwinner was the victim of haphazard methods of organisation, where he had no reasonable permanency in his employment, and was compelled at times to see his wife and children suffer deprivation owing to enforced periods of idleness. Whatever else happened in the future, the inherent right of every worthy citizen to a continuous income sufficient for his reasonable needs must be faced."—Extract from speech by Mr. Beeby.

We all agree with the above words of Mr. Beeby. But what is Mr. Beeby going to do about it?

The Workers' International Industrial Union emphatically declares that Mr. Beeby's Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act is no solution to the industrial problem. It cannot and will not solve the unemployed question.

Mr. Beeby's bill proposes to create industrial councils in different industries. "Each council would consist of an equal number of men selected respectively by workmen in the industry and by employers. A chairman not concerned in the industry would be appointed." But will these councils be able to solve the problem as stated above in Mr. Beeby's words?

The W.I.U. holds that "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life."

The W.I.U. hold that "Labor is entitled to all it produces."

Now bearing in mind what the W.I.U. adhere to, and further, that the W.I.U. holds that "Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the toilers take and hold all means of production and distribution, and to run them for the benefit of all wealth producers." What is the attitude of the Workers' International Industrial Union towards Beeby's Bill?

We have been informed that there are revolutionaries who say: "The W.I.U. is no doubt the perfect form of industrial organisation, but we do not support it, because under the rapidly changing industrial situations in Australia, it may be necessary to compromise and modify the demands of the W.I.U., in order to effectively defend our class in Australia against the rapidly changing tactics and attacks of the master class."

We have been asked: "Do we think a

compromise is ever justified; can the interests of our class ever be served by any form of compromise? Is there anything in the latest scheme of Beeby's which is at all likely to make any form of compromise with craft unionism, or any modification of the preamble, constitution, and tactics of the W.I.U. wise or tactful?"

Let us emphatically state that the W.I.U. will never compromise.

This new Act of Parliament will not deter the W.I.U. one iota in its determination to organise the workers into a Revolutionary Industrial Union, based on a clear recognition of the class struggle, and aiming steadily at the complete overthrow of the capitalist wage system.

Because we know that the W.I.U. plan is the only one able to solve the industrial problem. Beeby's bill and all the industrial councils of employers and employees in Australia will not solve the industrial problem.

Taking as our watchword "Labor is entitled to all it produces," any member of the W.I.U. who got appointed on an industrial council would have to take up that attitude, and compromise for nothing less. In that case the council would meet a deadlock, and the workers' representative would, unless the workers were strongly organised, be victimised.

Hence the attitude of the W.I.U. is that we do not recognise the authority of the Board of Trade nor of the industrial councils. We know that the workers will get nothing more than what they are economically strong enough to demand and take. That is the strength of their union. We know that no Arbitration Court or Industrial Council will ever give them more—hence why trouble about any court or council, with a neutral (?) chairman?

The workers' representatives must demand to meet the employers face to face, and force whatever concessions the strength of their industrial organisation and the state of the labor market allow. As we know, employers never abide by any agreement, neither do we intend to ever abide by any agreement. If we are forced to sign, why, we will sign it as often and in as many places as the bosses wish, but we will not be free agents; we will be forced by economic circumstances to sign that agreement; therefore, if economic circumstances allow, we will repudiate that agreement. In this we will but follow the lead of our masters.

We know that if a union has an agreement with a body of employers for, say, 10/- a day of 8 hours, when things are normal, that, if the labor market slumps—if there are more unemployed about—then the bosses, although they may not attempt to reduce the rate of ten shillings a day, although they may not attempt to force the workers to work more than eight hours a day—we know that they will speed the workers up to do more work in the eight hours than they did formerly, or else get sacked.

It is the number of unemployed outside that put the pace up. Also the employers are constantly trying to instal labor saving machinery to increase the output of the workmen, thus depreciating the amount of the workers' wages in proportion. The worker is thus, in spite of an agreement, robbed more and more by the boss. The cost of living rises, and his real wages decrease in their purchasing power.

Does anyone call that abiding by an agreement?

Although the hours and money are not altered, if the workers are speeded up, then the bosses have broken the agreement. And the workers can get no redress.

Therefore, under opposite conditions, when trade is brisk, and the number of unemployed small, the W.I.U. will demand more wages and shorter hours. In other words, will demand the cancellation of the agreement.

And they will have the power to back up their demands if they have the numbers organised. No Act of Parliament can stop them. Various tactics can be followed out. Even if the strike is illegal, even if they will be forced to give a fortnight's notice for complete stoppage of work.

There is no law ever can be passed to prevent the irritation strike, the slow down strike, or any other tactics (such as working up strictly to the rules on a railway), that under the circumstances will prove just as effective, and get you

Socialism and War.

(This lecture was delivered by Comrade James B. Scott at the A.S.P. Hall, Melbourne, on Sunday, Feb. 3.)

: Continued.

The I.L.P., after its return to sanity, issued a manifesto in which it denounces diplomacy and goes back to the economic causes of the war. Not like the British Socialist Party, who slobber over the Belgian invasion as justification for the assassination of the British working class. It goes on to say:—

"It was not the Serbian question or the Belgian question that pulled this country into the struggle. Great Britain is not at war because of oppressed nationalities or Belgian neutrality."

And though Ramsay MacDonald cannot at any time be counted in with the revolutionaries he has taken a better stand than Hyndman, the man who posed as one of the leading Marxists in England, during this war.

When the German hordes invaded Belgium, Hyndman's party fell through. In their manifesto to the workers of the United Kingdom they put up the following, which is quite acceptable to the capitalist class: "The attack made upon Serbia by Austria has involved the nations of the triple alliance, and those of the triple entente, and this country is drawn into the general struggle by the declaration of war upon Belgium by Germany on account of the refusal of that little State to forego its guaranteed neutrality in the interests of the attacking power."

This righteous indignation of British diplomacy is a hollow mockery in view of the fact that at the time of the Boer war she moved her troops through Portuguese neutral territory in South Africa. In the "Labor Leader," printed in Manchester, appeared the following from the pen of Ramsay MacDonald:—

"It has been known for years that in event of a war between Russia and France

the goods.

No politician, no Act of Parliament can ever override economic laws.

No amount of talk about it not being right that labor should be a commodity on the market—no revolting against the idea of labor being a commodity to be bought and sold like any other commodity can alter the fact. And a Recognition of the fact is imperative—that Labor is a commodity under the capitalist wage system. The only revolt that will cut any ice at all, is one that will overthrow the wage system, and make the workers masters of their own labor power owners of the machinery and tools of production.

Workers, your labor IS a commodity. You are forced to sell your labor power or starve, under the present system.

Workers! The political state is a house of cards. You can topple it over any time and substitute an industrial democracy for it—if you so desire.

You have only to organise industrially into such an organisation as the Workers' International Industrial Union, to take and hold the industries for the workers' own use, and simultaneously organise politically into a distinct revolutionary political party for the purpose of capturing Parliament for the one and only purpose of abolishing it, and handing over the full executive power to your own industrial council and general administration.

Don't be bulldozed by anything that Beeby or any other politician does in Parliament. Organise industrially and put the politicians on the run, and keep them on the run.

The strike has been illegal for years, but you have struck just the same. The industrial workers are stronger than any Parliament.

Only organise into the right union—the One Great Industrial Union—the Workers' International Industrial Union—and by right tactics you will never suffer defeat, but will eventually win right out—and then the unemployed and industrial problem will be solved. It will be a problem no longer—it will have disappeared.

—Official for the W.I.U.

on the one hand and Germany on the other, the only possible military tactics for Germany to pursue were to attack France hot foot through Belgium, and then return to meet the Russians. The plans were in our War Office. They were discussed quite openly during the Agadir trouble, and were the subject of some magazine articles, particularly one by Mr. Belfrage. Mr. Gladstone made it clear in 1879 that in a general conflict formal neutrality might be violated.

"Germany's guarantees to Belgium would have been accepted by Mr. Gladstone. If France had decided to attack Germany through Belgium, Sir Edward Grey would not have objected, but would have justified himself by Mr. Gladstone's opinions."

Hyndman goes on to tell us that his position is justified owing to the encroachments of Russian despotism. "A result which may easily come out of the war." But now that the "encroachments" have disappeared of which he spoke and the real "encroachments" are that of the British, French and German capitalist class in their attempt to despoil the nations of that age-long tree of agony and death which has now developed into the tree of liberty, wherein our flesh does not find justification for further support of the continuance of the war and the bloody butchery of our class!

The despotism Hyndman speaks of was not abolished by the paternal sword of Britain as the guarantee of our safety, nor by the gunnery of outside militarism, it was abolished by the revolutionary power of the working class, which is the only power that ever can or will emancipate the workers from the horrible nightmare of capitalism and all its attending evils.

Each country presents a plausible excuse to its own people as to why it entered the war, but as none of them attempt to tell the truth, which is a punishable offence under the War Precautions Act, even in this Free (?) Australia it will remain to be told after the war is over and the power of despots gone. But a few words from the mouth of that able representative of industrial capitalism in Australia might give you food for reflection. In Melbourne the aforementioned mouthpiece, W. M. Hughes, said:—

"There are on every hand indications of a colossal preparation for the commercial struggle which will follow closely on the heels of peace."

"COMMERCIAL STRUGGLE"! What does that mean? A "commercial struggle" simply means a struggle between the various groups of international capitalists to see which will be the most successful in disposing of the swag which represents so many crystallised drops of workers' blood. A commercial struggle between two sets of capitalists is no concern of the working class, AND THAT IS THE REASON REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAR EXCEPT THE CLASS WAR, which is a daily occupation.

The position of a worker, assisting in "commercial" struggles, the class who rob him and his class in the mill, mine, factory and workshop, reminds me of a brigand or highwayman being informed by those who he has relieved of their belongings as to where would be the best place to dispose of them.

If a war is not waged for the abolition of capitalism then it must be for the perpetuation of capitalism, and as SOCIALISM STANDS FOR THE SOCIAL OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM NO MAN DESERVING THE NAME OF SOCIALIST CAN LOGICALLY TAKE PART IN ANY WAR THAT DOES NOT PRECIPITATE THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

The Russian movement has sped with such rapidity that it would be useless for me to attempt to deal with it here and now (it will be dealt with in quite an extensive manner in the columns of the "International Socialist.") Sufficient to say for the present that the revolutionaries in Russia had to contend against their traitors of the Millerand type in the shape of the Kerenskys, they, too, had their Hendersons, and their Hughes, and might

IMPRISONED MEMBERS OF THE
WORKING CLASS.

Release Committee's Official Report.

369 Pitt St., Sydney.

Following on a series of highly successful meetings a further meeting was held in Leigh House, Castlereagh street, Sydney, on Feb. 26th, 1918, to enlarge the committee, which has in view the release of political prisoners in Australia.

Mr. P. Brennan, J.P., was elected chairman, and the meeting, which was largely attended, had representatives of various shades of political opinion.

The following officers were elected:

Secretary, Mr. Hades; treasurer, Betsy Matthias; president, E. P. Brennan, J.P.; vice-presidents, Ben Lewis and B. Jeffries; auditors, Messrs. George Washington and H.H.; press correspondents, Harry Meatheringham, George Washington and Betsy Matthias.

The committee plans the holding of meetings every night throughout Sydney, and it is hoped that the public regarding the injustice of the imprisonment of Labor agitators.

Various resolutions were formed, for the purpose of expressing our meetings and our indignation at the situation.

It was decided to concentrate on the cases of the twelve imprisoned members of the I.W.W. in order to secure their release.

The committee is convinced, and is not deterred by any opposition, it is convinced of the justice of the cause, and is determined to see that the twelve imprisoned members of the I.W.W. are released.

The committee wants and liberty loving people to give their hearty support to the movement, so that the cases of the twelve men may be thoroughly investigated, and the men set at liberty.

The committee believes that if the light of truth shines upon these cases, the men will be free once more, and a great wrong will be righted and a great injustice rectified.

HARRY MEATHERINGHAM,
Official Press Correspondent.

still have had them had they not had that class conscious industrial army forcing the pressure. Through the strength of this economic organisation they have succeeded in all the attempts of the doubting Thomases to the contrary notwithstanding in overthrowing the capitalist system and establishing on its ashes THE INDUSTRIAL REPUBLIC OF LABOR.

The object lesson of the war is this, and so simple it is to understand. Political betrayals and industrial betrayals would not be possible if the workers were organised in industry instead of craft. Organised for the overthrow of the system under which they slowly die. Organised for the emancipation of our class, when the workers do so organise the day of the political opportunist will have faded into night, the dark clouds will roll over him and bury him in the sea of oblivion and the workers will march on to that great and only goal, THE INDUSTRIAL REPUBLIC OF LABOR, and with this vision in front of us we say: "I see a world where thrones have crumbled; and where kings are dust. The aristocracy of ill-health has perished from the earth. I see a world without a slave. Man is at last free. Nature's forces have, by science, been enslaved. Lightning and light, wind and wave, frost and flame and all the secret, subtle powers of earth and air are tireless toilers for the human race. I see a world at peace, adorned with every form of art, with music, myriad voices thrilled, while lips are rich with words of love and truth. A world in which no exile sighs, no prisoner mourns; a world on which the gibbet's shadows never fall; a world where labor reaps its full reward; where work and worth go hand in hand.

I see a world without the beggar's out-stretched palm, the miser's heartless, stony stare, the piteous wail of want, the vivid lips of lies or the cruel eyes of scorn. I see a race without disease of flesh or brain, shapely and fair, the married harmony of form and function, and, as I look, life lengthens, joy deepens, love envelops the earth, and over all in the great dome shines the eternal star of human hope."

(Conclusion.)

The Russian Revolution.

A Review and a Retrospect.

Compiled by J. A. D., W. H., J. B. S.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE).

It was agitation that led up to the revolution. January 22nd arrives, the anniversary of Bloody Sunday. In towns and in the country black and red flags, with revolutionary inscriptions are seen, and leaflets distributed. The anniversary of the Lena massacre (April 17th) is the occasion for still more outspoken demonstration. Apart from revolutionary flags and leaflets, strikes of protest are held in factories in Riga and demonstrations in the streets are attempted. But for the German invasion of the Baltic Provinces a one-day strike was to have taken place on the 1st of May as a mighty unanimous protest against the war. Appeals to the soldiers depicting the horrors of war and the madness of bloodshed were spread broadcast in the barracks and garrisons of Central Russia, in military trains, and even at the front and in the trenches. One appeal concluded thus:

"The time draws nigh when the masses will rise, when the Czar will send you against the people, against our red banner, against your fathers and brothers. In that case do your duty; be on the side of the people and against Czarism!"

The facts leading up to the political intrigue and reactionary moves of the autocracy with the German Kaiser and financial interests and their holding up of food supplies, etc., that would force revolts and bring about a peace with Germany have been exposed so often in the capitalist press that we will not deal with them here.

But that the political opportunists among the Social Democrats tried hard to avert the revolution is evident by their manifesto issued in November, 1916. This discloses them to be nothing more than a reform party. Like the Australian Labor Party the Menshevik Social Democrats mouthed revolutionary phrases that are not in keeping with their reform policies. A revolutionist must be able to take a long view. He must have courage against great odds. He must be willing to stake his all well knowing that even if defeat does come, that it will only be a temporary setback.

"Say not the struggle naught availeth,
The labor and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, not faileth,
And as things have been they remain.

"If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

"For, while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

"And not by Eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slowly, how slowly!
But westward, look, the land is bright."

The revolutionist knows that the industrialists—the real Socialists—are at work in all countries, hence he takes his stand for the social revolution, and will compromise for nothing less. When the international lay in ruins the Revolutionary Socialists yet wrote with confidence:—

"Abandoned and solitary fights our red battle flag—the bulk of the proletariat has turned its back upon it. But the time will come when the red flag will again point the way for swarms of fighters, when our battle cry, 'Workers of all lands unite!' will make the sweaters and exploiters of all countries tremble."

The manifesto put forward in November 1916, by the political opportunist Social Democratic leaders in the hopes of exerting pressure on the masses not to rise in revolt was as follows:—

"We belong to the different shades of Russian Socialistic thought. We differ in many things, but we firmly agree in that the defeat of Russia in her struggle with

Germany would mean her defeat in her struggle for freedom, and we think that, guided by this conviction, our adherents must come together for a common purpose to their people in their hour of the grave danger it is now facing.

"We address ourselves to the politically conscious working man, peasants, artisans, clerks, to all of them who earn their bread in the sweat of their brow, and who, suffering from the lack of means and want of political rights, are struggling for a better future, for themselves, for their children, and for their brethren.

"We are sending them our hearty greeting, and persistently ask them: Listen to us in this fatal time, when the enemy, having conquered the western strongholds of Russia occupied an important part of her territory, and menaces Kiev, Petrograd, and Moscow, these most important centres of our social life.

"It happened before to our country to suffer from the bloody horrors of a hostile invasion, but never before did it have to defend itself against an enemy so well armed, so skilfully organised, so carefully prepared for his plundering enterprise as he is now.

"The position of the country is dangerous to the highest degree; therefore upon all the politically conscious children of the working people of Russia, lies an enormous responsibility.

If you will say to yourselves that it is immaterial to you and to your less developed brothers as to who will win in this great war going on now, and if you will act accordingly, Russia will be crushed by Germany. And when Russia will be crushed by Germany it will fare badly with the Allies.

"But if, on the contrary, you will hold the conviction that the defeat of Russia will reflect badly upon the interests of her working population, and if you will help the self defence of our country with all your forces our country and our Allies will escape the terrible danger menacing them.

"Therefore, go deeply into the situation. You will make a great mistake if you will imagine that the working people do not need to defend their country. In reality, nobody's interest will suffer more terribly from the invasion of an enemy than the interests of the working population."

Then the manifesto goes on to tell them how heavily they will be taxed, sounds quite familiar, like an Australia Labor politician appealing for votes.

"If the Germans will win the final victory, they will demand of us an enormous contribution, in comparison with which the streams of gold which poured into victorious Germany from vanquished France after the war of 1871, will seem a mere trifle."

As one reads that he can well imagine that he hears the Russian equivalent to the Australian Labor Party weeping tears over the great war debt. This is the reason why the Australian Socialist Party teach economics, that the workers may know that the working class on the average do not pay the taxes, hence taxation bogies do not alarm us or take us from the straight path.

"But," continues the manifesto, "that will not be all. The most consequent and frank heralds of German imperialism are saying even now that it is necessary to exact from Russia the cession of important territory which should be cleared from the present population for the greater convenience of German settlers, never before have plunderers, dreaming of spoiling a conquered people, displayed such cynical heartlessness."

After a few more pictures of homeless farmers, etc., reading very like some of the appeals for a "YES" vote out here, the manifesto continues:—

"The most important, the most vital interests of the proletariat and of the farming population demand of you an active participation in the defence of the country. Your watchword must be vic-

AN APPRECIATION.

Dear comrades of the "International Socialist,"

Enclosed is the usual from "Enthusiastic" for the Press Fund with congratulations on the annual report of the A.S.P. in the past year, and also the highest appreciation of the I.S. as a remarkably excellent propaganda medium in these our times, and the best and only good real Socialist paper in Australia.

Nothing better could be said of it, I'm sure, and I'm always trying to say the best.

My good wishes and highest hopes for its future as well as for the future of Socialism in Australia are constant thoughts of yours very sincerely in the cause of the proletariat.

E. B. RICHES.

RUSSIAN ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

A MONSTER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE PROTESTANT HALL, CASTLEREAGH STREET, TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION ON MARCH 25th. PROMINENT SPEAKERS FROM VARIOUS LABOR ORGANISATIONS WILL TAKE PART. REBELS AND INTERNATIONALS ROLL UP. ADMISSION FREE. COLLECTION IN HALL. GRAND MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

tory over the foreign enemy. In an active trend toward such victory the live forces of the people will become free and strong.

"Obedient to this watchword, you must be as subtle as serpents. Although in your hearts may burn the flame of noble indignation, in your heads must reign invariably cold, political reason. You must know that zeal without reason is sometimes worse than complete indifference. Every bit of agitation in the rear of the army, fighting against the enemy, would be equal to its meaning to the foreign enemy.

"The thunders of war certainly cannot make the Russian suppliers more disinterested than they were in times of peace, in the distribution of numerous orders, inevitably at the mobilisation of industry; gentlemen enterprises will as they are accustomed to, take great care of the interests of capital, but will not take care of the interests of hired labor. You will be entirely right at getting indignant at their conduct. But in all cases, whenever you may like to answer by a strike, you must first think if such action would not be detrimental to the cause of the defence of Russia.

"The private must be subject to the general. The working men of each factory must remember that they would commit, without any doubt, the greatest mistake, if, considering only their own interests, they forgot how severely the interests of the entire Russian people and farming class would suffer from German victory."

And it winds up with a final appeal:—"The situation is such that we cannot achieve freedom in any other way than the way of national defence."

But the predations of the master class continued, and the intrigues and treason of the autocracy became more and more pronounced. The real Socialists, the Bolsheviks, continued their propaganda for industrial democracy. The real Socialists of the conquered territory did not despair as to the final outcome of the revolution. Since the forced evacuation of the Baltic Provinces they were scattered by thousands over the whole of Russia. In the industrial centers they soon were in touch with the now awakened revolutionary movement. The political revolution could no longer be stayed off. It culminated in March 1917.

It was the workers who were responsible for the revolution. The troops at Petrograd, combined with the workers, and refused to shoot the people. The autocracy had lost the control of the army. The soldiers in Petrograd, turned their guns against the police, the last bulwark of Czarism. The garrison soldiers of the old regime had practically all been sent to the front during the thirty months of war, and the garrison at Petrograd was now composed of older reserve soldiers recently called to the colours after having passed years in their villages and recruits who had not undergone the influences of barracks. They had developed a class feeling, not as soldiers, but as peasants, laborers having interests in common with the Petrograd proletariat, many of whom were friends and relatives from their own villages.

To be Continued in Next Issue.

A. W. FOSTER, LABOR (?) DELEGATE TO RUSSIA.

March 18th, 1918.
THE PRESS COMMITTEE.

Dear Comrades,

At a meeting of members of this Branch on Feb. 6th, the action of the Executive was endorsed in sending a letter of protest to the Russian Association of Melbourne regarding a proposal from the V.S.P. and the Labor Party to send a delegate to Russia regarding a proposal from the V.S.P. and the Labor Party to send a delegate to Russia purporting to represent Socialists in Australia. A resolution was carried, "That on reply of secretary of Russian Association to this letter, the hon. sec. of this branch send a copy to the C.E. with a request for its publication in the 'International Socialist'."

Enclosed are copies of this Branch's letter to the Russian Association and reply thereto.

The Russian Association are holding a celebration of the anniversary of the Russian Revolution (on March 25th). Delegates were invited from various local organisations (including the A.S.P.) to be present. This Branch accepted the invitation, and Comrade J. B. Scott will be amongst the speakers to address the gathering.

It is rumored that the P.L.C. and T.H.C. "decided to take no action."

P. MURPHY, Hon. Sec.

(Per J.M.)

MELBOURNE BRANCH A.S.P.

To the secretary and comrades of the Russian Association, Greeting.

We of the Australian Socialist Party send our heartiest congratulations on the great victory achieved by your compatriots in Russia over capitalism. The faithful and uncompromising stand on behalf of Internationalism in the midst of betrayal by other parties in Europe from the very outset of this terrible holocaust, precipitated by the greed of the bloodthirsty financial pirates and commercial interests of Europe, send a thrill through our hopes, and lend encouragement to us in our work for the overthrow of capitalism in Australia. In this work we are greatly hampered by a party masquerading under the name of Labor, whose sole achievement has been a continual betrayal of working class interests from the attempt to deprive the workers of the right to strike by the means of compulsory arbitration and conciliation with capitalist interests through a capitalist court, to the cowardly and infamous Child Conscription Act. While other parties all over the world at the threat of war held demonstrations of protest, this so-called Labor Party, on the contrary, hastened to assure British Imperialism of its unswerving loyalty "to the last man and the last shilling." In the name of civilisation it has stifled the fundamental principles of Democracy of Free Speech, and Freedom of the Press, acquiescing in the debarring of revolutionary literature, and rewarding with terms of imprisonment, the militant members of the working class. Its present leader, Frank Tudor, actually proclaims that the peace terms of President Wilson are far in advance of the terms of the Labor Party.

This party with such an infamous record, is actively supported by a pseudo movement parading under the name of "The Victorian Socialist Party," who by their continued support, have condoned all the treacherous acts of this Labor Party. It is now proposed by these parties to send a delegate to Russia, and in view of the fact that the so-called Labor Party never professes to stand for International Socialism, but on the contrary, denied the existence of the class struggle by its statement that "it represents the interests of ALL classes," which make it impossible for any true Socialist Party to support. This compels us to protest against the right of this proposed delegation to represent or speak for Socialism, and the interests of the Australian working class.

Signed by members of the Executive for Melbourne Branch.

The Russian Association of Melbourne
Molesworth Chambers, 450 Little Collins
Street, Melbourne, 9/3/18.

The Secretary of the Australian Socialist Party, Melbourne.

Dear Comrade,

I must confirm receipt of kind letter of 5th Feb., for which I thank you.

The letter was read at our last general

Melbourne Notes.

Prof. Meredith Atkinson lectured at the Chapter House on Capital and Labor, co-operation or class war. His colleague, Mr. Mead, M.A. of the Workers' Educational Association, was perhaps a bit jealous when he said "Atkinson is sent out here to chloroform the public, he only came to Melbourne for the job." But as far as chloroform is concerned—well, the Professor tried to reconcile the irreconcilable conflict between capital and labor by diverting the class struggle into a commodity struggle that between producers and consumers. Verily the Universities only succeed in turning out mental cripples. But he certainly stood for both the industrial and the political, for did he not say that he spoke as a member of the Church of England, and as a member of the Church of Christ!

Several pertinent questions were asked him by several Socialists and Industrialists, but he failed to grasp the points at issue. When asked would not the political state of a necessity disappear when industrial democracy came in; he answered that the State would always exist—it could exist in that room alone. Nuff sed. Perhaps the Sydney comrades can tell us if the rumor is true, that Prof. Atkinson had to leave Sydney because it became too hot for him on account of his activities in favor of conscription, also on account of his child, the Workers' Educational Association, having gone in for recruiting seabs in the late big strike at his instigation?

Anyhow, the fact that the Church of England is being forced to give lectures on social and economic subjects shows that the apologists of capitalism are being put on the run, in their vain effort to put a spoke in the wheel of social progress. The professor's remedy was industrial councils as advocated in Beeby's Act in N.S.W.

Rather a backhanded compliment was given to the Marxian Socialists by the Dean of Newcastle. He said the social revolution was a secularised rendering of the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of God, but without a king and without a God. "It is surely a great thing that the majority of the workers have still the power of moral protest left, and are still without the dainty, dreamy scepticism of the more leisured classes." In other words, the Socialists are out for the kingdom of heaven on earth, and are not concerned about the pie in the sky when they die.

Comrade Harris read the first portion of his lecture on the Russian Revolution to an interested audience at the A.S.P. on Sunday night. An interested discussion ensued. There are still some doubting Thomases, and Com. Harris challenged them to come along and hear the second portion next Sunday.

W. Smith, who contested the Henty seat at the last election for the Labor Party, said that although he was more in sympathy with the Mensheviks, yet he had to admire the Bolsheviks. He also said that he did not think it possible for industry to develop to the necessary efficiency under Socialistic rule, capitalism was necessary for this development, and he likened social revolution in Russia to a bolting horse that would end up in a smash. Com. Scott said that only a Labor Party Marxian would put up such an argument, and it was resolved to send you our sincere thanks for your real comradeship expressed in your congratulations, which needless to say, we appreciate.

As to your request to write to Russia and explain that the representative of the Victorian Socialist Party and the Australian Labor Party are not the suitable representatives of the Australian Democracy, I regret to say that the meeting, after a thorough discussion on the subject, resolved that whilst the Russian Association does not consider itself justified in recommending its opinion to Russia as to who is the real representative of Australian Democracy, the meeting authorised the committee to acquaint the Council of Working Men and Soldiers' Delegates of Petrograd with the object and policy of each Socialistic and Democratic Party of this country, and will leave it to them to form an independent opinion on the subject.

It was further agreed that in the event of the delegates not being revolutionary enough, their acquaintance with the Russian Democracy will make up for the deficiency, as it did with Mr. A. Henderson for example.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I beg to remain,
Fraternally yours,
N. LEONARD KANEVSKY,
President.

ment, that Brother Smith was putting up Mallock's argument that capital had the superior executive ability; it was from such a premise that Mallock drew his conclusion that capital's huge profits were the wages of superior directing ability. Com. Scott said that this argument had been shivered by Marx through De Leon. (See Marx on Mallock, by Daniel de Leon, S.L.P.) Even the "Age" could not accept Mallock to-day. Com. Harris said that if the Russian Revolution was a bolting horse, well, it had the bit between its teeth, and nothing could stop it now.

Splendid propaganda meeting at Richmond on Friday night. The day of the Australian Socialist Party is surely dawning.

A. W. Foster has been refused a passport to Russia by the Federal Government. The "Age" said he was a representative of the Australian Socialist Party. We herewith deny that statement. The said Foster being an aspiring Labor politician and a pseudo national Socialist of the V.S.P.

The Australian Socialist Party has already its representative in Russia—one of our late Russian comrades, who the general secretary says would have received his credentials for the Stockholm Conference, only the democratic Government of free Australia would not allow same to be sent to him.

On Monday, the 25th March, the Russian Association is holding a demonstration in the Masonic Hall, Melbourne, to commemorate the Russian revolution. Although this date is only the anniversary of the first or Political Revolution, nevertheless it was the first great step. The Russian Association sent out invitations to the various democratic organisations in Melbourne to take part. Rumor hath it that the Trades Hall Council and the Australian Labor Party refused to join in, this is quite in keeping with the policy of these two organisations. They are always opposed to revolution; they are always looking for the path of reform, which only leads them further along the road of the capitalistic system and away from Labor's emancipation. We are, therefore, not surprised at their refusal. The Australian Socialist Party is to be represented despite the attempt by the Victorian Socialist Party's delegate to prevent it. But there are some members at least in the Russian Association who know that the A.S.P. is the only party in Melbourne who can truly state the case for revolution.

On Sunday, 10th March, Comrade Harris gave the second portion of the lecture on the Russian Revolution. A Russian comrade who was present stated his belief that Lenin should not sign a peace with Germany, because he had stated he would never agree to anything but a democratic peace. Comrade Harris stated that he backed Lenin's tactics, as against Trotsky's. Readers will have noticed that there has been a divergence of opinion between Lenin and Trotsky for the last few months, culminating in the report in the daily press, that Trotsky has resigned. Some time back Trotsky stated that he would sacrifice Russia to save Europe, and sacrifice Europe to save the world if need be. Apparently, therefore, he wishes Russia to continue the war against Germany. Lenin, on the other hand, believes a bird in hand is worth two in the bush. He relies upon the German workers to defeat German Imperialism. He knows that a treaty signed, as this one is to be signed, at the cannon's mouth, is no treaty. Russia will treat it merely as a scrap of paper when it suits her to do so. But the fact of signing the treaty will gain time for the Bolsheviks, who will consolidate their present gain—the Soviet Republic—and put down all bourgeois treason and uprising with a strong proletarian hand; and hold what they've got. Then if Germany continues to invade Russia, it will be so apparent to the German workers that Germany is out to crush the Revolution that they will then concentrate and bring about the revolution in Germany. The Bolshevik Government have a propaganda bureau, which issues millions of leaflets and manifestoes, also a daily paper printed in several languages which is circulated among the German trenches. Boris Reinstein, a member of the Workers' International Industrial Union is in charge of this department. Comrade Reinstein left for Stockholm early last year to act as delegate for the Socialist Labor Party of America, and also to urge the formation of a Great International Industrial Union, as the only way to prevent war. Boris Reinstein went on to Russia, and the news has appeared in the daily press of New York that he is in charge of the Russian Government's bureau for propaganda. No doubt our friends of the S.L.P. of Australia will accept this as an intimation that the Russian Revolution is now official, in spite of Secretary Petersen's doubts.

—Press Correspondent.

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS

Whosoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.

All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address.

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B. Lewis, Main Street, Corrimal, Secretary.

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Hall: 269 Pitt St., City.

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Lecture every Sunday evening.

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Business meeting every alternate Thursday evening.

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AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Ancient Society—Lewis H. Morgan; cloth 6/-; posted, 6/3.

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IMPORTANT.

When ordering literature it is well to add the cost of registration (3d.). This is necessary to guarantee delivery.

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369 Pitt Street.

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